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(54) Title: **AEROSOL FORMULATIONS**

(57) Abstract: The present invention is directed to an aerosol formulation comprising (A) a composition comprising (i) from about 20 to about 50 % by weight of an aromatic alcohol, such as benzyl alcohol, (ii) from about 5 to about 50 % by weight of an accelerator, and (iii) from about 0.5 to about 5.0 % by weight of water, based upon 100 % weight of total composition; and (B) a propellant. The aerosol formulation is useful for removing paints, coatings, grease, and other residues from various substrates. A method of preparing the aerosol formulation is also provided.

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AEROSOL FORMULATIONS

15 Field of the Invention

This invention relates to aerosol formulations for removing paint, grease, and other residues from various substrates and methods of preparing the same.

Background of the Invention

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For decades, strong acids and halocarbon solvent-based compositions were employed in stripping various protective coatings from metal and other substrates. Increased awareness of the detrimental impact of such paint strippers on health and environment, in recent years, resulted in government legislative bodies all over the world restricting and/or prohibiting the use of these materials.

25

Various hazardous solvents, such as methylene chloride and methyl alcohol, are often included in paint stripper compositions. Since these solvents may cause health and environmental problems when airborne, they are not suitable for use as an aerosol.

Most currently commercially available aerosol compositions for removing grease from oven surfaces and other substrates emit unpleasant odors and are caustic. Furthermore, these

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compositions often are not environmentally friendly.

5 Therefore, there is a need for effective paint stripper compositions which do not contain strong acids, halocarbon solvents, or other hazardous solvents and which may be applied as an aerosol. Also, there is a need for environmentally friendly aerosol grease removing compositions which are not odorous.

Summary of the Invention

5 The present invention is directed to an aerosol formulation comprising (A) a composition comprising (i) from about 5 to about 50% by weight of aromatic alcohol, (ii) from about 0.5 to about 5.0% by weight of an accelerator, and (iii) from about 15 to about 60% by weight of
10 water, based upon 100% weight of total composition; and (B) a propellant. The aerosol formulation of the present invention is effective at removing paint, coatings, grease, and other residues from substrates. It is also non-corrosive or only slightly corrosive to substrates, environmentally safe, non-hazardous, nonflammable, nontoxic, low odor, and fully biodegradable.

10 Another embodiment of the invention is an aerosol can containing the aerosol formulation of the present invention.

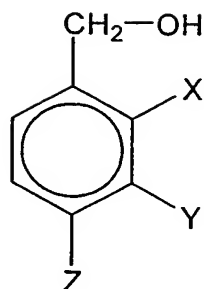
15 Yet another embodiment of the invention is a method of preparing the aerosol formulation comprising the steps of (A) dispersing (i) a polar phase containing (a) from about 10 to about 45 parts by weight of water and (b) from about 0.3 to about 4 parts by weight of an accelerator into a (ii) a non-polar phase containing from about 3 to about 35 parts by weight of aromatic alcohol
15 to form a composition, and (B) adding from about 20 to about 50 parts by weight of a propellant to the composition to form the aerosol formulation.

20 Yet another embodiment of the invention is a method for removing paint or a coating from a substrate comprising applying a paint or coating removing effective amount of the aerosol formulation of the present invention.

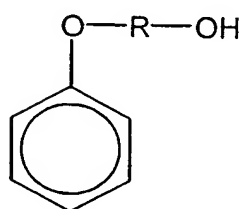
20 Yet another embodiment of the invention is a method for removing grease and other residues from a substrate comprising applying a grease or residue removing effective amount of the aerosol formulation of the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Invention

25 The aerosol formulation of the present invention comprises (A) a composition and (B) a propellant. The composition of the present invention comprises (i) from about 5 to about 50% by weight of (a) an aromatic alcohol having the formula



where X, Y, and Z are all hydrogen or two hydrogens and a methyl, (b) an aromatic alcohol having the formula



15 where R is ethylene, propylene, or isopropylene, or (c) a mixture thereof; (ii) from about 0.5 to about 5% by weight of an accelerator; and (iii) from about 15 to about 60% by weight of water, based upon 100% weight of total composition.

The composition typically has a pH of from about 7 to about 11 and preferably a pH of less than about 10. According to a preferred embodiment, the pH of the composition ranges from about 8 to about 9.

Suitable aromatic alcohols include, but are not limited to, benzyl alcohol, phenoxy propanol, phenoxy ethanol, and any combination of any of the foregoing. Preferably, the aromatic alcohol is benzyl alcohol. The composition preferably comprises from about 30 to about 40% by weight of aromatic alcohol, based upon 100% weight of total composition.

25 Suitable accelerators include, but are not limited to, alkanolamines, such as monoethanolamine, triethanolamine, and any combination of any of the foregoing. Preferably, the composition contains both monoethanolamine and triethanolamine. The weight ratio of monoethanolamine to triethanolamine is preferably from about 2:1 to about 1:2 and more preferably about 1:1. The composition preferably comprises from about 0.5 to about 3% by weight of an
30 accelerator, based upon 100% weight of total composition.

The presence of deionized water in the composition enhances the overall stripping effectiveness of the composition. When the protective coating on a substrate to which the

composition is applied is polar, *e.g.*, polyurethanes, the presence of a solvent with a high dielectric constant such as water ($\epsilon=80.2@20^{\circ}\text{C}$) has a positive effect in separating charged areas, thus allowing other solvents in the composition to soften the coating.

5 The water preferably contains no more than about 1% by weight of dissolved inorganic salts and preferably less than about 200 ppm. Distilled or deionized water having an electrical conductivity less than about 400 mho/cm is particularly preferred.

The composition preferably comprises from about 30 to about 60% by weight of water, based upon 100% weight of total composition.

10 Corrosion inhibitors may be added to the composition to control the corrosive action of the composition on an aerosol spray can as well as on metal substrates on which the composition is applied. Suitable corrosion inhibitors include, but are not limited, 2-mercaptobenzothiazole, toluoltriazole, benzotriazole, 2(3H)-benzothiazolethione, morpholine, sodium nitrite, sodium benzoate, and any combination of any of the foregoing. Preferred corrosion inhibitors include, but are not limited to, 2-mercaptobenzothiazole, morpholine, sodium nitrite, sodium benzoate, and any
15 combination of any of the foregoing. The composition typically comprises a corrosion inhibiting or corrosion retarding effective amount of corrosion inhibitor. Preferably, the composition comprises from about 0.1 to about 3% by weight and more preferably from about 0.5 to about 1% by weight of corrosion inhibitor, based upon 100% weight of total composition.

20 The composition may also include an aromatic ether having the formula $\text{R}^1\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-CH}_2\text{-R}^2$ where R^1 and R^2 are hydrogen and phenyl or both phenyl. A preferred aromatic ether is benzyl ether. The composition preferably includes from about 1 to about 20% by weight of aromatic ether based upon 100% weight of total composition. The weight ratio of aromatic alcohol to aromatic ether is preferably from about 10:1 to about 5:1 and more preferably about 7:1.

25 An aromatic hydrocarbon cosolvent may be included in the composition. The aromatic hydrocarbon cosolvent may be a mixture of one or more aromatic hydrocarbon solvents. The aromatic hydrocarbon cosolvent improves the stability of the composition thereby increasing the shelf life of the composition. It also improves the rheological properties of the composition and the speed of penetration of the composition into paints, coatings, grease, and other residues. Furthermore, the aromatic hydrocarbon solvent reduces the surface tension and evaporation rate of
30 the composition. Preferably, the aromatic hydrocarbon solvent has a flash point above about 150°F and more preferably above about 190°F . Naphthalene depleted aromatic hydrocarbons are preferable since naphthalene has a noxious odor and is hazardous. Suitable aromatic hydrocarbon

cosolvents include, but are not limited to, Aromatic 200ND™ available from Exxon Chemical Co. of Houston, TX; Solvesso 200™ available from Esso Corp. of Toronto, Canada; metaphenoxy benzyl alcohol; and any combination of any of the foregoing. The composition typically comprises from about 0.5 to about 40% by weight and more preferably from about 1 to about 20% by weight of aromatic hydrocarbon cosolvent, based upon 100% weight of total composition. The weight ratio of water to aromatic hydrocarbon cosolvent is typically from about 1.5:1 to about 30:1 and preferably from 3:1 to about 30:1.

The composition may include other adjuvants, such as coupling agents, rheology modifying agents, evaporation retardants, solubilizer-emulsifiers, stabilizers, chelating agents, and any combination of any of the foregoing.

Suitable coupling agents include, but are not limited to, alkylene glycols, dimethylsulfoxide, and any combination of any of the foregoing. A preferred coupling agent is propylene glycol. The composition typically comprises from about 0.5 to about 15% by weight and preferably from about 0.5 to about 5% by weight of coupling agent, based upon 100% weight of total composition.

Suitable rheology modifying agents include, but are not limited to, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, fumed silica, precipitated silica, castor oil, and any combination of any of the foregoing. A preferred rheology modifying agent is hydroxypropyl cellulose. The composition typically comprises from about 0.1 to about 5% by weight and preferably from about 0.1 to about 1% by weight of rheology modifying agent, based upon 100% weight of total composition.

Suitable evaporation retardants include, but are not limited to, silicone fluid, a water-based wax emulsion, paraffin oil, paraffin wax, and any combination of any of the foregoing. A preferred evaporation retardant is paraffin wax. The composition typically comprises from about 0.1 to about 3% by weight and preferably from about 0.1 to about 1% by weight of evaporation retardant, based upon 100% weight of total composition.

Suitable solubilizer-emulsifiers include, but are not limited to, fluorinated alkyl esters; polyethoxylated sorbitan ester, such as polyethoxylated sorbitan monolaurate, polyethoxylated sorbitan monopalmitate, polyethoxylated sorbitan monostearate, polyethoxylated sorbitan tristearate, and polyethoxylated sorbitan monooleate; trioleate polysorbates; and any combination of any of the foregoing. A preferred solubilizer-emulsifier is polyethoxylated sorbitan monooleate. The paint stripper composition typically comprises from about 0.1 to about 5% by weight and preferably from

about 0.1 to about 3% by weight of solubilizer-emulsifier, based upon 100% weight of total composition.

Suitable stabilizers include, but are not limited to, acetanilide. The paint stripper composition typically comprises from about 0.01 to about 3% by weight of stabilizer, based upon
5 100% weight of total composition.

Suitable chelating agents include, but are not limited to, sodium salts of phosphonic acids, such as bis(hexamethylene)triamino penta(methylene phosphonic) acid and phosphoric acid; sodium salts of citric acid; sodium salts of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA); and any combination of any of the foregoing. The composition typically comprises from about 0.5 to about
10 4% by weight and preferably from about 0.5 to about 2% by weight of chelating agent, based upon 100% weight of total composition.

Other adjuvants as known to those skilled in the art may also be included in the composition.

The composition is preferably substantially free of peroxides, such as hydrogen
15 peroxide; acids; and hazardous solvents, such as methyl chloride and methyl alcohol. More preferably, the composition contains less than 1% of each of these substances and most preferably is free of these substances. Peroxides and acids may react with the metal of an aerosol can and cause the can to explode. Hazardous solvents may have a detrimental impact on health and the environment when airborne.

The aerosol formulation typically comprises from about 50 to about 80% by weight
20 and preferably from about 70 to about 80% by weight of the composition, based upon 100% weight of total aerosol formulation.

Suitable propellents, include but are not limited to, dimethyl ether, hydrocarbons, and compressed air. A preferred propellant is dimethyl ether. The aerosol formulation typically
25 comprises from about 20 to about 50% by weight and preferably from about 20 to about 30% by weight of propellant, based upon 100% weight of total aerosol formulation.

Another embodiment of the invention is an aerosol can containing the aerosol formulation of the present invention.

The aerosol formulations of the present invention are prepared as follows. A polar
30 phase comprising deionized or distilled water and an accelerator is admixed with a non-polar phase comprising aromatic alcohol with continuous mixing to form the composition.

5 The polar phase is prepared by admixing, with continuous mixing, from about 15 to about 60 parts by weight of deionized or distilled water and from about 0.5 to about 5 parts by weight of an accelerator. Preferably, from about 1 to about 20 parts by weight of aromatic hydrocarbon cosolvent, from about 0.5 to about 5 parts by weight of coupling agent, and from about 0.1 to about 3 parts by weight of solubilizer-emulsifier are added to the polar phase. A stabilizer and chelating agent may also be added to the polar phase.

10 An aromatic ether, corrosion inhibitor, evaporation retardant, and rheology modifying agent may be added to the non-polar phase. Typically, the non-polar phase comprises from about 5 to about 50 parts by weight and preferably from about 30 to about 45 parts by weight of the composition, based upon 100 parts by weight of total composition.

A propellant is then added to the composition to yield the aerosol formulation of the present invention. Preferably, from about 20 to about 50 parts by weight of propellant are added to the composition.

15 The propellant may be added by any method known in the art. One method for adding the propellant is as follows. The composition is introduced into a spray can or other container. The container is vacuumed and a propellant, such as dimethyl ether, is injected into the container. The container is then sealed, closed or capped, preferably with a valve.

20 The aerosol formulations of the present invention are useful in removing and stripping paints, such as oil-based paints, and various other protective coatings, such as epoxies, polysulfides, urethanes, polyurethanes, vinyl esters, alkyds, and acrylics. A paint or coating removing and/or stripping effective amount of the formulation is applied to the substrate. This amount can be determined by a user of the formulation by any method known in the art.

25 The aerosol formulations are also useful for removing grease and other residues, such as oil, adhesives, tar, asphalt, inks, and dyes, from a substrate. A grease or residue removing effective amount of the formulation is applied to the substrate. This amount can be determined by a user of the formulation by any method known in the art.

30 The aerosol formulation preferably foams when sprayed onto a substrate. Foaming typically enhances penetration of the aerosol formulation onto a painted or coated substrate. According to one embodiment of the invention, the aerosol formulation is typically applied from approximately 1.0 to approximately 1.5 oz/ft² and preferably about 1.2 oz/ft².

The composition may need to be applied one or more times to remove one or more coatings, grease, or the other residues from a substrate.

Examples of suitable substrates include, but are not limited to, metallic substrates, such as steel, aluminum, brass and other alloys; wood; glass; plastics; and masonry.

Methods of applying the formulation include, but are not limited to, spraying, soaking, immersing, brushing, and the like. Preferably, the formulation of the present invention is sprayed onto the substrate as an aerosol.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

The following examples illustrate the invention without limitation. All parts and percentages are given by weight unless otherwise indicated.

Example 1

The composition in Table 1 was prepared as follows. Paraffin wax, 3-mercaptopbenzothiazole, morpholine, sodium nitrite, sodium benzoate, and hydroxypropyl cellulose were added to benzyl alcohol with continuous mixing to form a non-polar mixture. A polar mixture was prepared by admixing deionized water, triethanolamine, monoethanolamine, propylene glycol, polyethoxylated sorbitan monooleate, and an aromatic hydrocarbon cosolvent (Solvesso 200™). The non-polar mixture was dispersed into the polar mixture to form the composition as a paste.

Table 1

Ingredient	% Weight
Benzyl Alcohol	35.00
Solvesso 200 ^{TM 1}	6.60
Paraffin Wax	0.30
Polyethoxylated Sorbitan Monooleate	0.50
Hydroxypropyl Cellulose	0.25
Propylene Glycol	1.50
2-Mercaptobenzothiazole	0.30
Triethanolamine	1.00
Monoethanolamine	1.00
Morpholine	0.29
Sodium Nitrite	0.29
Sodium Benzoate	0.29
Water	52.68
Total	100.00

¹ - Solvesso 200TM is available from Esso Corporation of Toronto, Canada.

Example 2

An aerosol formulation containing the composition of Example 1 and dimethyl ether was prepared as follows. The composition of Example 1 was placed into a spray can. The can was vacuumed. Dimethyl ether was injected into the can and the can was pressurized until the can contained 70% by weight of the composition and 30% by weight of dimethyl ether.

Comparative Example 3

The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except monoethanolamine and triethanolamine were replaced with water.

Comparative Example 4

The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except monoethanolamine was replaced with water.

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Comparative Example 5

The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except triethanolamine was replaced with water.

Example 6

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5 steel test panels were coated with a fully cured solvent based alkyd resin system.

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The paint stripper compositions of Example 1 and Comparative Examples 3-6 and the aerosol formulation of Example 2 were tested as follows. A panel was laid horizontally. The composition was applied to the test panels at room temperature. The test panels were then positioned vertically. The effectiveness of the composition was evaluated based upon the amount of paint which could be removed with minimal, average, or a fair amount of force 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 45, and 60 minutes after application of the composition. The degree of lifting of the coating from the substrate, also known as the orange peel effect, was observed. Also, the percent of composition remaining on the test panel 60 minutes after application of the composition was determined. The results are shown in Table 1 below.

20

Table 1

Stripper Composition	Time (minutes)						Degree of Lifting	Percent Stripper Composition Remaining on Panel after 60 minutes	Form of Stripper Composition
	5	10	15	20	30	45	60		
Example 1	1	2	2	3	4	5	5	75	Paste
Example 2	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	95	Aerosol
Comparative Example 3	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	75	Paste
Comparative Example 4	1	2	2	2	3	4	5	75	Paste
Comparative Example 5	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	Paste

- 1 - No apparent stripping with a scraper with a fair amount of force.
- 2 - Negligible stripping with a scraper with a fair amount of force.
- 3 - Some stripping with a scraper with an average amount of force.
- 4 - Majority stripped with a scraper with minimal force.
- 5 - Complete stripping with scraper with minimal force.

Example 7

The composition prepared in Example 1 was tested as follows to determine its efficacy for removing food, grease, and carbon adhered to metal surfaces. The composition was tested on three different types of substrates by spraying the composition as an aerosol (as prepared in Example 2). The three types of substrates were:

1. Used kitchen equipment which had thick build-up of food, grease, and carbon adhered to it. In spots, the layers were 1/4" thick.
2. Domestic ovens and grill interiors which had baked on carbon and carbon deposits which have been blackened with repeated use of the ovens and grills.
3. The underside of pots and pans which have a crust of blackened soot and carbon firmly adhered to the metal.

The time necessary to remove the residues on each metal surface after applying the paint stripper composition was determined. The tests were repeated with a commercial oven cleaner on the market. The results are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Substrate	Aerosol (minutes)	Commercial Brand* (minutes)
Used Kitchen Equipment	90	Did Not Work
Ovens and Grills	20	30
Pots and Pans	60	15

* - The commercial brand contained methylene chloride, toluene, and other caustic chemicals.

No heat, pressure, or abrasion was applied to the substrate after application of the aerosol and the commercial brand.

All patents, applications, articles, publications, and test methods mentioned above are hereby incorporated by reference.

Many variations of the present invention will suggest themselves to those skilled in the art in light of the above detailed description. Such obvious variations are within the full intended scope of the appended claims.

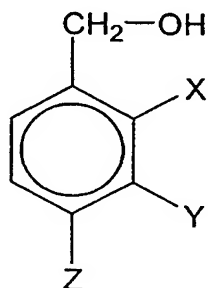
What is claimed is:

1. An aerosol formulation comprising:

(A) a composition comprising

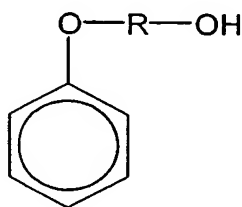
(i) from about 5 to about 50% by weight of

(a) an aromatic alcohol having the formula



wherein X, Y, and Z are all hydrogen or two hydrogens and a methyl,

(b) an aromatic alcohol having the formula



wherein R is ethylene, propylene, or isopropylene, or

(c) a mixture thereof;

(ii) from about 0.5 to about 5.0% by weight of an accelerator; and

(iii) from about 15 to about 60% by weight of water, based upon 100%

weight of total composition; and

(B) a propellant.

2. The aerosol formulation of claim 1, wherein said aromatic alcohol is benzyl alcohol.

1 3. The aerosol formulation of claim 1, wherein said composition comprises from
2 about 30 to about 40% by weight of said aromatic alcohol, based upon 100% weight of total
3 composition.

1 4. The aerosol formulation of claim 1, wherein said accelerator is selected from
2 the group consisting of monoethanolamine, triethanolamine, and any combination of any of the
3 foregoing.

1 5. The aerosol formulation of claim 1, wherein said accelerator is a mixture of
2 monoethanolamine and triethanolamine.

1 6. The aerosol formulation of claim 1, wherein said composition comprises from
2 about 0.5 to about 3% by weight of said accelerator, based upon 100% weight of total composition.

1 7. The aerosol formulation of claim 1, wherein said aerosol formulation
2 comprises from about 50 to about 80% by weight of said composition, based upon 100% weight of
3 total aerosol formulation.

1 8. The aerosol formulation of claim 1, wherein said propellant comprises
2 dimethyl ether.

1 9. The aerosol formulation of claim 1, wherein said aerosol formulation
2 comprises from about 20 to about 50% by weight of said propellant, based upon 100% weight of
3 total aerosol formulation.

1 10. The aerosol formulation of claim 1, wherein said composition has a pH of
2 about 10 to about 11.

1 11. The aerosol formulation of claim 1, wherein said aerosol formulation foams
2 upon being dispensed.

1 12. The aerosol formulation of claim 1, wherein said composition further
2 comprises a corrosion inhibitor.

1 13. The aerosol formulation of claim 12, wherein said corrosion inhibitor is
2 selected from the group consisting of 2-mercaptobenzothiazole, toluotriazole, benzotriazole, 2(3H)-
3 benzothiazolethione, morpholine, sodium nitrite, sodium benzoate, and any combination of any of
4 the foregoing.

1 14. The aerosol formulation of claim 12, wherein said composition comprises a
2 corrosion retarding effective amount of corrosion inhibitor.

1 15. The aerosol formulation of claim 1, wherein said composition further
2 comprises an aromatic ether having the formula $R^1-CH_2-O-CH_2-R^2$ where R^1 and R^2 are hydrogen
3 and phenyl or both phenyl.

1 16. The aerosol formulation of claim 1, wherein said composition further
2 comprises an aromatic hydrocarbon cosolvent.

1 17. The aerosol formulation of claim 16, wherein said aromatic hydrocarbon
2 cosolvent is a naphthalene depleted aromatic hydrocarbon cosolvent.

1 18. The aerosol formulation of claim 16, wherein said aromatic hydrocarbon
2 cosolvent has a flash point above about 150° F.

1 19. The aerosol formulation of claim 1, wherein said composition further
2 comprises a coupling agent, rheology modifying agent, evaporation retardant, solubilizer-emulsifier,
3 stabilizer, chelating agent, and any combination of any of the foregoing.

1 20. The aerosol formulation of claim 19, wherein said coupling agent is an
2 alkylene glycol.

1 21. The aerosol formulation of claim 19, wherein said rheology modifying agent
2 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose,
3 hydroxyethyl cellulose, fumed silica, precipitated silica, castor oil, and any combination of any of
4 the foregoing.

1 22. The aerosol formulation of claim 19, wherein said evaporation retardant is
2 selected from the group consisting of silicone fluid, water-based wax emulsion, paraffin oil, paraffin
3 wax, and any combination of any of the foregoing.

1 23. The aerosol formulation of claim 19, wherein said solubilizer-emulsifier is
2 selected from the group consisting of a polyethoxylated sorbitan ester, a trioleate polysorbate, a
3 fluorinated alkyl ester and any combination of any of the foregoing.

1 24. A process for preparing an aerosol formulation, said process comprising the
2 steps of:

3 (a) dispersing (i) a polar phase containing from about 10 to about 45 parts
4 by weight of deionized or distilled water and from about 0.3 to about 4 parts by weight of
5 accelerator, into (ii) a non-polar phase containing from about 3 to about 35 parts by weight of benzyl
6 alcohol to form a mixture;

7 (b) adding from about 20 to about 50 parts of propellant to said mixture
8 to form said aerosol formulation.

1 25. A method for removing paint or a coating from a substrate comprising
2 applying a paint or coating removing effective amount of the aerosol formulation of claim 1.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the aerosol formulation is applied from an
2 aerosol can.

1 27. A method of removing grease or other residues from a substrate comprising
2 applying a grease or residue removing effective amount of the aerosol formulation of claim 1.

1 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the aerosol formulation is applied from an
2 aerosol can.

1 29. An aerosol can containing the aerosol formulation of claim 1.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter: xnal Application No
PCT/IB 00/01097

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C09D9/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C09D C11D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 080 822 A (VANEENAM DONALD N) 14 January 1992 (1992-01-14) column 4, line 36-66; example 12 ---	1,3,10, 19,27-29
A	WO 94 22965 A (MINNESOTA MINING & MFG) 13 October 1994 (1994-10-13) page 5, line 5 -page 6, line 10 page 7, line 35 -page 8, line 4 page 9, line 25-35 page 10, line 5 -page 11, line 35; table A --- -/--	1-4,6, 19,25-28



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 October 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

08/11/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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